

**THE FLORIDA BAR  
TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2007  
LODGE AT PONTE VEDRA**

The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Executive Council met at the Lodge at Ponte Vedra. Chair Bob Palmer at 9:12 a.m. The minutes were taken by Frank Bedell.

ROLL CALL

**I. Call to Order**

The following members of the Executive Council were present: Norm Vaughan-Birch, Courtney Grimm, Brad Powers, John Williams, Jep Barbour, Craig Gibbs, and Sandy Sanborn.

**II. Minutes**

The Minutes of September 7, 2007 meeting of the Executive Council were read and approved.

**III. Financial Report**

Yvonne Sherron presented an explanation of the revenues, costs and expenses of the section's CLE courses and emphasized that even though it initially appears that a course was losing money, sometimes sales of tapes and materials brings in additional revenue.

A motion was made and passed to add an additional \$1,000 to the line item for the Advanced Trial Advocacy Seminar.

**IV. Other Reports**

- A. CLE Committee**—no report.
- B. Mock Trial Committee**—no report.
- C. Search Committee**

Sandy Sanborn reported on the process by which potential lobbyists were screened. The other members of Search Committee were past-chair Dom Caparello, Glenn Burton and Craig Gibbs. The applicants were narrowed down to Fred Dudley, former member of the Senate, Bob Harris, who is a trial lawyer and a lobbyist for several organizations, Richard Gentry, and Ron Laface (who could not be present due to the short notice). Dom assured us that the fact that Bob Harris is one of his partners has not and will not influence his opinion of Bob's qualifications for this job. And it was noted that Steve Metz approved of all of these applicants.

Fred Dudley appeared with another lawyer and presented the strengths of Holland & Knight, and said that they would charge a separate fee for any amicus work. Bob Harris appeared and noted that is a practicing lawyer as well as a lobbyist, and said that amicus work would be included in his \$60,000 fee. Richard Gentry appeared and noted that while he is a lawyer he hasn't actively practiced in a while, although he does have his own firm. The materials presented by Ron LaFace on behalf of Greenberg Traurig were examined and discussed.

After further discussion regarding the merits of each applicant, there was a motion to hire Bob Harris at \$60,000 per year, which motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**D. Website Committee**

Bob Ahern from Thoughtware Technologies was referred to us by Paul Hill of The Florida Bar and the Office of the State Courts Administration. He said among many, many other things including that the issue is accessibility of a website and that his company's assessment of a website is free.

**V. Old Business**

None.

**VI. New Business**

It was decided that the revised Guidelines for Professional Conduct were approved and should be forwarded on to judges.

Respectfully submitted, Frank M. Bedell